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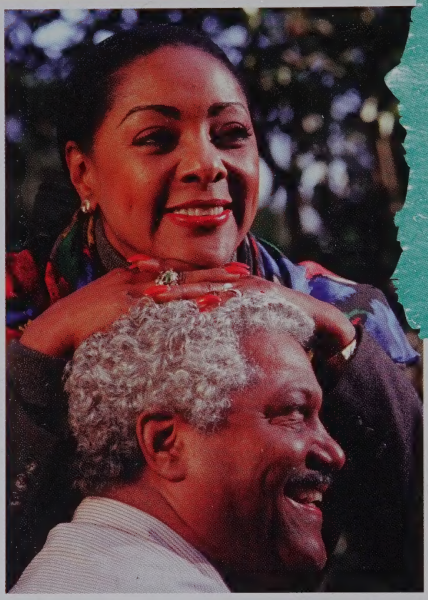
Lawrence and Lucimarian Roberts talk about Family

Dr. Glaude Carries Moss Point With Him

Tracing My Ancestor's Footsteps by Dr. Philip Terrell



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MISSISSIPPI Star

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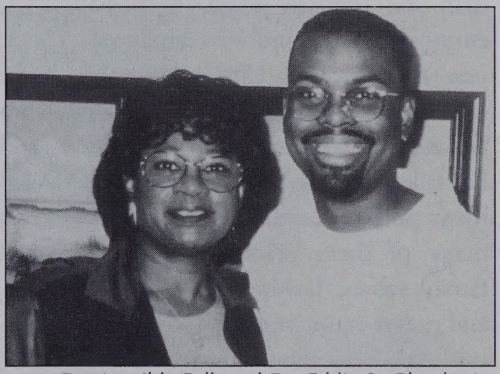

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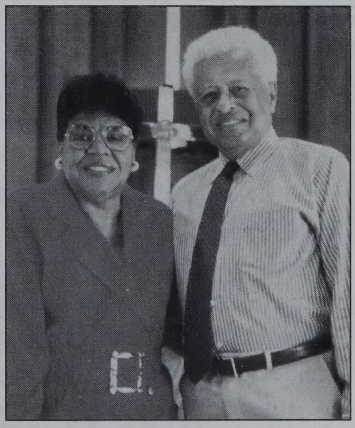

Lucimarian and Lawrence Roberts

JIMMY LOIACANO, PHOTOGRAPHER

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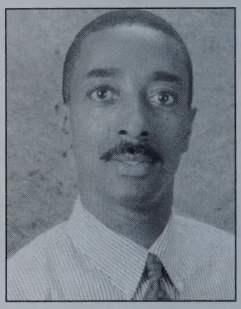

Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

What is the value of family?

First of all, let me assure you, the value of a family unit is much greater than the similarly-stated, overused, empty political soundbite - family values. Ever since the 1988 presidential election and subsequent local, state and regional elections, that expression has fallen callously off the tongues of many political candidates. Certainly, many of them practice respectable family values, however, by the cold and carless enunciations by some others, that expression meant nothing other than associating their candidacy with what an advisor told them was in at the moment. Some of them would bring to mind singers from a different time, like the 1950s, trying to sing a popular 1990s song. It was like they knew the words to the song and they could actually sing, but they couldn't feel the song. Try to imagine Tom Jones singing Michael Jackson's Bad.

Surely, there is such a thing as common values of a productive and cohesive family. At the top of that list would certainly be love and everything else would fall under that heading: discipline, respect, self-reliance, the golden rule and a generally healthy lifestyle, etc.

Today's parent is charged with the responsibility of preparing children for a world that is so different from what it was just ten or fifteen years ago. Many parents are struggling to have a computer in their home so that their children won't be left out of the technology age. And children's perceptions of what is important continue to swallow more of a diminishing household budget as demands for Jordan sneakers, Tommy Hilfiger and other name-brand clothing grows out of control.

My gut tells me that buying Jordan sneakers or Hilfiger jeans for a child has little to do with establishing a child's character or self-worth. However, having grown up in a large family - eleven children and both parents - that was poor in terms of financial wealth, but wealthy in terms of love and energy, those things are really unimportant. Giving a child a good example and simply doing the best that you can do as a parent to provide the necessities is as close as any of us will get to finding a formula for raising a healthy, productive child. MS

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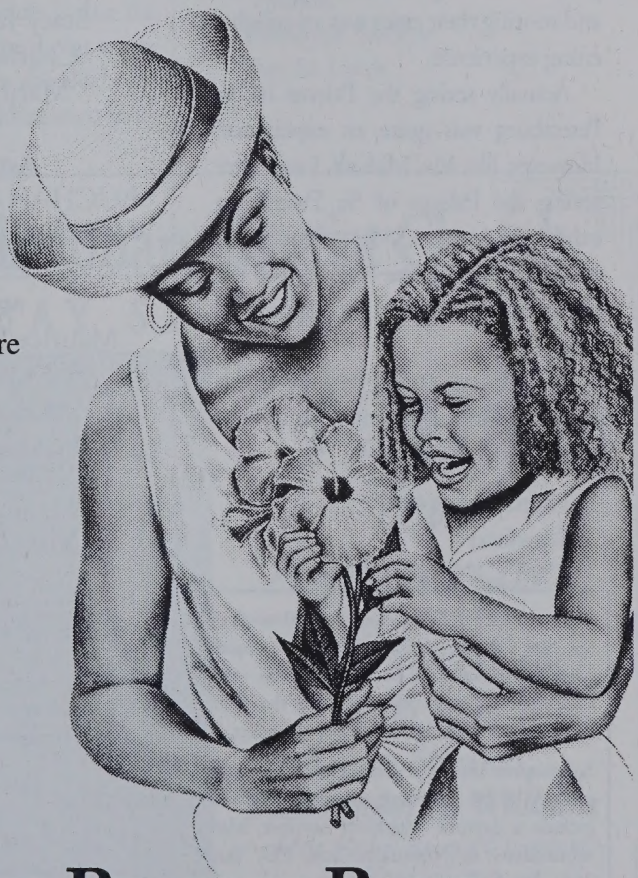

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LETTERS

Dear Mr. Singleton,

Ms. Robin Alfred Midcalf's Memoirs From Russia (February 1997 issue) is indeed an interesting article. It was an interesting experience to travel as a participant in the ACYPL exchange program to Russia. Her travel in a foreign country, experiencing different cultures, meeting the people, learning of their aspirations and touring their cities was an enlightening experience.

Actually seeing the Palaces of St. Petersburg was quite an experience. However, like Ms. Midcalf, I too, after seeing the Palaces of St. Petersburg exhibit in Jackson, Mississippi, felt a sadness, realizing the hardship of the peasants who built and maintained them.

Ms. Midcalf's entire trip was worth it and thanks for sharing with us who have not been there.

Helen Morris
Waveland

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

MISSISSIPPI *Star*

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Mississippi Star

Newsstand price: $1.75
Annual subscription rate: $15.00

For subscriptions,
back issues and advertising
inquiries please contact:

Mississippi Star
Post Office Box 2651
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521
601-463-1200

Mississippi Star is a monthly magazine published by Star Magazine, Inc.

LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

I really enjoyed the article published in February's issue of Mississippi Star concerning Robin Midcalf's trip to Russia. She was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to not only visit Russia but to gain knowledge of some of their customs and ways of life.

One important point Robin brought out in this article is that the United States should push for a second language and this should begin being taught at the kindergarten level. She also mentioned how Russians not only spoke other languages but English as well.

Through reading this article, I think Robin made many of us aware that if we only speak English, our ability to communicate is very limited. Therefore, speaking a second language can only make us better understand the world around us.

Thanks,
Adrienne Bradley
Bay St. Louis

First Missionary Baptist Church

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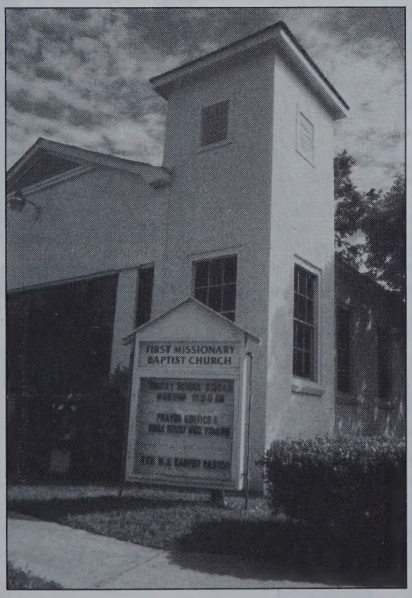

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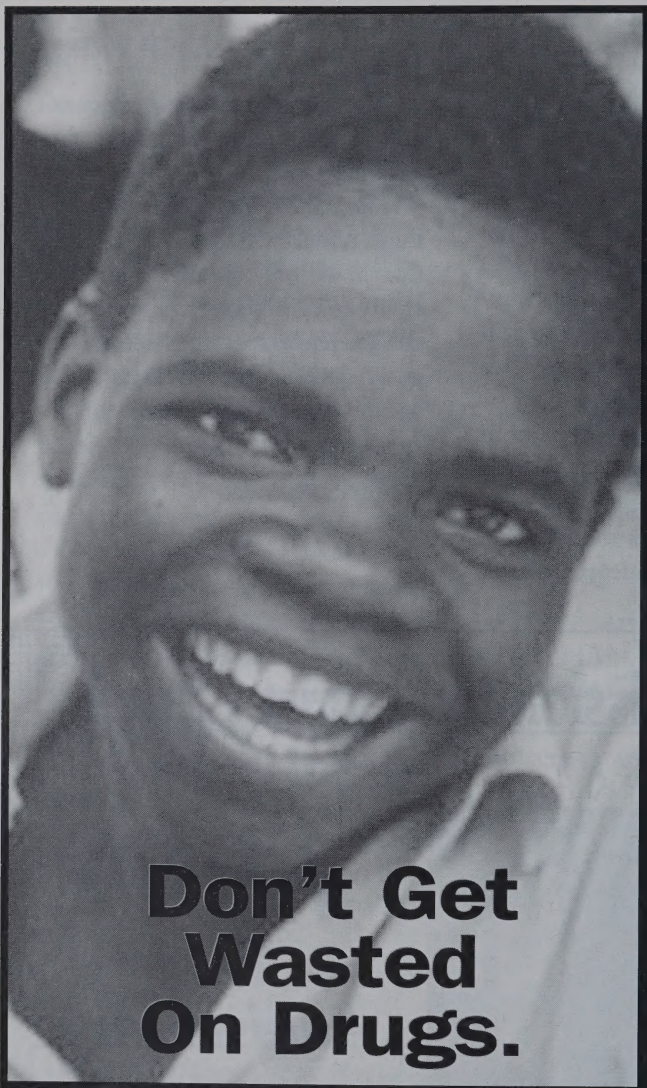

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MOVIE REVIEW

Rosewood is a Reality Check

by Joyce Williams

Even before I saw *Rosewood,* I had heard so much about the movie. Mostly mixed emotions - some positive, some negative, but for the most part a combination of emotions, positive and negative. Everybody said it was a "must-see", and I must admit after viewing *Rosewood,* I wholeheartedly agree, it is definitely a "must-see", and not just for African Americans. Anyone interested in American history will enjoy Rosewood.

Rosewood, undoubtedly is the best film production on the market this year. John Singleton has his finger on the pulse of history and Rosewood will give you a serious reality check - as well as entertain you.

The movie takes place in Rosewood, Florida in the early 1900s. A predominantly Black community, thriving economically, socially and morally is destroyed by a lie. Whites in the neighboring community torture and destroy all that the Black citizens of Rosewood had worked hard to establish.

John Singleton effectively demonstrates institutionalized racism. Prior to the incident the two communities had coexisted peacefully.

Citizens of Rosewood had worked as midwives, domestics and had established friendships with the white citizens. But, because any excuse is good when you harbor hatred, the lie caused a mass frenzy among the whites which led to the destruction of a thriving Black community.

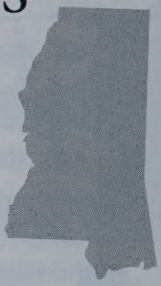
This movie brings to mind several events that have occurred in the past few years. The incident of the South Carolina mother who claimed that her two young boys had been carjacked and kidnapped by two African American males, which we later learned was untrue. One of the first reports out of Oklahoma City following the bombing of the federal building accused the Nation of Islam. Unquestionably, this movie causes us to look at America as it views African Americans.

How much has America changed?

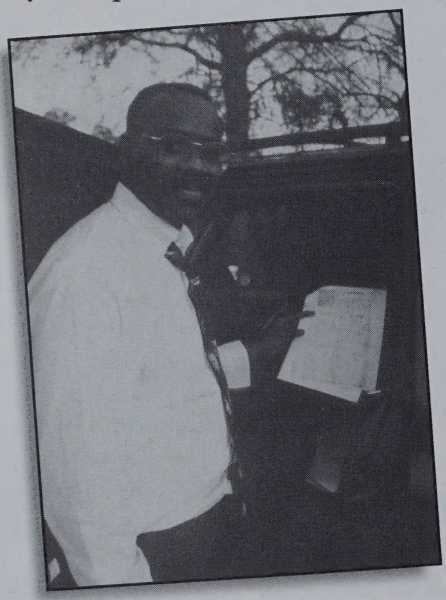
Joyce Williams is a businesswoman in Biloxi.

Tracing My Ancestor's Footsteps in Southwest Mississippi

A Geneological Journey



by Philip Terrell, Ph.D.



Dr. Philip Terrell proudly holds document identifying his great-grandfather'.

It's simply amazing how once one reaches the age of forty, he/she almost instinctively begins to develop a strong desire to rediscover their roots. At forty-something - forty-three to be exact - I'm no exception.

Although I had studied U.S. history, Mississippi history, and European history at Mississippi State University in early to mid1970s and had taught high school until 1980, surprisingly, the world of genealogy and my own history background never crossed paths until I passed the age of forty.

Although I had thought about my family history often and remembered some of the stories that my mother and father shared with me over the years, it was not until after a conversation with a colleague that I began to research my family history.

Some of my beginning tasks were as follows:

1. Put into writing all the information I remembered about my family tree.
2. Develop a list of questions that perhaps could be answered by my living aunts and uncles, since both of my parents are deceased.
3. Locate any and all family documents that could uncover new information.
4. Familiarize myself with local, state, and national agencies and departments that could serve as resources.

As a result of prior discussions with my father, Ledell Terrell, I knew that his parents were Richard Terrell and Jessie Gayten Terrell, who were my

paternal grandparents. I also learned that Richard Terrell's parents and my great-grandparents were Jerry and Mary Terrell. However, with the exception of the fact that my father, grandfather and great-grandfather all resided in Lincoln county, Mississippi, sometime during their lives, and that my great-grandfather Jerry Terrell homesteaded some land there, I had virtually no other information.

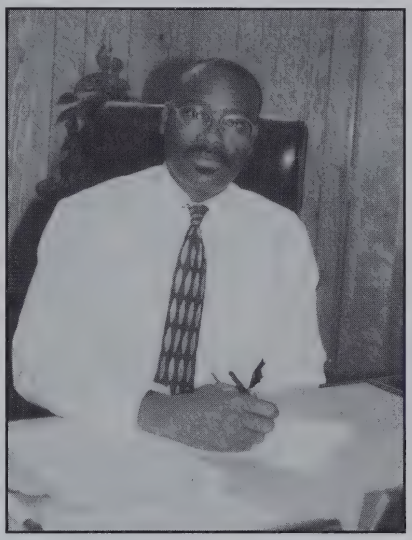
After locating old family documents and developing genealogical questions, I initially began talking to Ms. Anne S. Anderson. As you may know, Ms. Anderson maintains a collection of genealogical material and once operated a private library in Bay St. Louis.

But my first stop was the Hancock County Courthouse. There, I was able to locate documents concerning my parents in the Hancock County Circuit Clerk's office that promised to provide, and eventually did provide, information about my grandparents. To my surprise, the information had been there all along.

One of the first documents I obtained was a cop of my parents' marriage application. This document revealed that they were married in 1932. It also provided the address of my grandparents, Richard and Jessie Terrell, at the time of my parents' wedding.

And just a few doors down in the Chancery Clerk's office, I was able to locate the list of educable children. I had hoped this list would provide information once I began research on my mother's family, since my mother was originally from Hancock County.

Excitedly, I returned to the Anderson Genealogical Library and



immediately fast-forwarded the process by beginning the task of reviewing census records. With some help, I was able to locate my grandparents, Richard and Jessie Terrell, in the 1910 census. I was shocked! There it was as it had been all along: The information listed Richard and Jessie Terrell living in a house on Jackson Street in the Norfield Village, which was near a local saw mill in Lincoln County. Their children were listed as James, age 3, who was my father's brother, and, of course, Lee, age 1 1/2, who was my father. My grandfather's age was listed as 27 while his wife, Jessie, was listed as being 22 years of age.

By now I was thoroughly hooked. Perhaps I could find my great grandfather in the U.S. Census! Because of time restraints, several weeks passed before I could get back to the Anderson Genealogical Library, but eventually I returned. And this time I knew exactly where to start.

The 1900 census did not reveal any

information pertaining to my family history, and I was quickly made aware that the 1890 census had been destroyed and was unavailable. So, as I moved to the 1880 census, I knew that this census record would very well be my last chance to locate information about my great-grandfather. Very few African Americans were listed in the official U.S. census records prior to 1870; and the 1870 census, due to such vast migration and movement of newly freed men, is somewhat incomplete.

Finally, I began reviewing the 1870 census, looking first in Lincoln County, Beat 4, because this was the general location my grandfather and great-grandfather had homesteaded land. After several hours of perusing the records with the assistance of a library volunteer, I discovered information about my great-grandfather in the 1880 U.S. Census.

I was humbled by the fact that even though a scant 15 years had passed since the Civil War, the records indicated that my grandfather was enjoying a relatively prosperous life. The records show that my grandfather, Jerry Terrell, was 40 years of age at the time, which placed his date of birth as 1840. His wife, Mary, was listed as 35 years of age. At that time, they had nine children, excluding Frederick, who was born in 1882, and Richard, my grandfather, who was born in 1887. The census record showed that my great-grandfather's occupation was that of a farmer and that Mary, his wife, was "keeping house."

After learning a little more about my great-grandfather, Jerry Terrell, from the census records, I felt a strong desire to learn more about him as an individual. Therefore, I journeyed to the Lincoln County Courthouse in Brookhaven, and was able to research, pinpoint and acquire a legal description of the land he originally homesteaded. Since Lincoln County was created as late as 1870, this was very easily done. There were not many entries during this period of time. Where I previously thought my great-grandfather homesteaded only 40 acres, this research revealed that he had homesteaded nearly four times that much: 157 acres!

With this information, I was able to write the U.S. Department of Interior to ascertain if they, in fact, would have any information about my great-grandfather. Again to my surprise, the records were still on file.

Ten days later, I received a package from the U.S. Department of Interior containing the records, which included some details about my great-grandfather's life. (Admittedly, I was impressed with the expediency with which the Department of Interior responded to my request!) Specifically, the records revealed that my grandfather and his family first appeared on the land on January 19, 1876, and that by 1881, five years after the original settlement, Jerry Terrell's improvements of the property included the construction of "a dwelling house, meat house, kitchen, stable, two corn cribs and a cotton crib." To my amusement, my great-grandfather placed a value of $250.00 on his improvements.

During this same five-year period, Jerry Terrell testified for the record that "he had cleared 30 acres and had planted and harvested five crops." The doc-

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

uments from the Department of the Interior also revealed, through the required testimony of witnesses, that my great-grandfather was of good character. In fact, one witness, Austin Dean, was quoted as saying, "I have been acquainted with Jerry since 1866."

Due to slavery, most African Americans find it extremely difficult to obtain information on family history prior to 1865. However, I continue to investigate my great-grandfather's life as the remaining historical documents reveal his history.

In addition, I am encouraged that immediately after slavery my great grandfather apparently emerged as a successful and prosperous newly-freed man.

But now I have more questions about my family history than ever before. And, finally, I think I am close to locating the specific geographical area where my great-grandfather, Jerry Terrell, labored in bondage, and maybe the name of a great-granddaughter of the original slave owner. Once I locate this information, as well as information about my mother's side of the family, a more complete picture of my family history will come into focus. And, honestly, I can't wait.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Philip Terrell is originally from Bay St. Louis, and at present lives in Pass Christian with his family. Currently, Terrell is Superintendent of Pass Christian Public School District and is active in various civic and community initiatives along the Coast.* MS

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JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY TO CONDUCT ETHNIC PERCEPTIONS STUDY OF SERVICE INDUSTRY

Two Jackson State University professors, Dr. J.R. Smith, marketing and management department chairman, and Dr. Kimball Marshall, associate professor of marketing, have been awarded a $10,000 Nissan Faculty Research Grant to study ethnic customer perceptions of the quality of service provided by service industry businesses. The project is the first that has been identified which reflects racial and related ethnic variations in perception of service quality.

The research project, titled, "Variations in Servicy Quality Issues: A Proposal for a Survey Research Project to Identify Racial-Ethnic Differences in Correlates of Perceived Service Quality in Diverse Industries," will be conducted in the Jackson metropolitan area in April and May.

"We are going to be looking at diverse service industry businesses in Jackson metropolitan area from fast food to dry cleaners to beauty and barber shops," said Smith. "This research will address perceptions from the standpoint of racial and ethnic differences and how these groups look at different service industries," he explained.

JSU management and marketing undergraduate and graduate students will benefit educationally by having an opportunity to assist with the project through questionnaire development and distribution and data analysis. Survey results are expected to be available during the summer and will ultimately offer urban businesses means to obtain better customer satisfaction.

"What we hope to accomplish is to identify ways to enhance the competitive advantage of Jackson's retail businesses through improved customer service," said Marshall. "It is the quality of JSU students that makes this type of research possible, which can result in training programs and recommendations for retailers regarding ways they can better and more profitably serve the diverse ethnic groups that make up the Jackson metropolitan population."

Smith said service marketing is one of the fastest growing areas in the marketing field and that Jackson State will offer its first course in service marketing this fall.

Smith and Marshall, whose research proposal was the only one selected from among approximately 50 and the only one that will be funded this year to support faculty research, are the first ever to receive such a grant from Nissan. Funds are provided through the joint efforts and commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) of the Nissan Motor Corporation, U.S.A., the HBCU-Educational Testing Service Collaboration and the Graduate Management Admission Council. MS

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ROBERTS FA

A Wealth of Faith, Respect and Lo

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

There appears to be something very special about Colonel Lawrence Roberts and Lucimarian Roberts. Certainly, they are considered over-achievers who are finally harvesting the rewards of very productive careers. And like most parents and grandparents, they are extremely proud of their children and grandchildren.

Lucimarian and Lawrence Roberts

All four of their children have earned college degrees and have achieved success in their respective careers. Lawrence II is an account executive with Dean Witter in Houston, Texas. Sally Ann is a morning news anchor with WWL-TV in New Orleans. Dorothy McEwen is director of social services with South Mississippi Regional Center in Long Beach. Robin Roberts is a nationally recognized sports broadcaster with ESPN and ABC Television.

Granted, the successes of their chil-

ILY FORTUNE

dren are important to them, however, after talking with Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and getting to know them a little, I discovered that the faith of their children is what makes them happiest.

"One of the greatest thrills that I have is when somebody says to me, 'I saw your child in church,'" Mrs. Roberts explained. "If my children can say the best thing that my parents ever did was to take me to church and to help me have the love of God, then I think that everything has worked out. It has been a wonderful life.

"I don't expect to leave my children a great amount of wealth," she added. "My parents didn't leave me any wealth. "It is more important to make sure that children are grounded with a sense of what is right and wrong."

Mrs. Roberts says that the religious faith that had been given to her by her parents and grandparents has helped her through many situations. "The things they left me were so worthwhile: 'Never do anything in the dark that you wouldn't want to come to the light.'" is one of the lessons she clearly recalls. Another is the example of her grandparents.

"My grandfather and my grandmother were very religious. My grandfather worked at Goodyear. Everyday. He ran one of those work elevators. In the evenings he came home and worked in his garden. His produce, whatever he was able to harvest, he gave away. He worked as a pastor of a church without a salary. He was, I guess, what Paul would call a tentmaker.

"My parents believed that you had to keep giving back what God gave you in order for you to give," Mrs. Roberts explained. "He didn't give it to you for you to hoard or to hold in your hand. He gave us wonderful gifts. My grandmother's gift was the gift of hospitality. She never met a stranger. To people who were traveling, friends would say, 'If you get to Akron, the Suddeths would put you up.' I lived in a time when there weren't any Holiday Inns. There was one Black restaurant in Akron. When my husband was in the military, and we were traveling, a number of times people would do acts of kindness for us, and I would say I'm being paid back for Grandma. Grandma, in her way of kindness had shared so that someone who didn't even know Grandma, when her granddaughter came to town, there was food, there was a place to stay."

As our discussion continues, the Roberts rules for a spiritually healthy family unfolds.

"Children are the biggest imitators in the world," Mrs. Roberts explained

Retired Colonel Roberts identifies himself in a photograph of flight personnel known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

recalling an incident involving her oldest daughter. "Sally Ann had a little doll, and she was spanking the daylights out of that doll. Then it dawned on me; this child is demonstrating what I had done to her yesterday. She had done something and I had really just spanked her. So I thought this is the way children are. If you curse, your children are going to curse. If you smoke, your children are going to smoke. If you drink, your children are going to drink." Mrs. Roberts acknowledged that there are exceptions, but she says that if children are not imitating a parent, they are usually imitating "somebody that they have seen, and they think it's really great.

"I think also love plays such an important part. If you haven't been loving to your children, they don't know how to be loving to someone else. They have to know that they were loved in spite of what they do or in spite of how they act. Not very long ago there was a mother whose son had done something very, very bad, and she said, 'I didn't like what he did, but I love my child.' And I thought, this is the way God is with us. He doesn't like some of the things that we do, but he doesn't stop loving. And I really admired the woman who could stand up under all of the media and all who were saying that your son is just the scourge of the earth. I think that was very courageous of her to express her love that way. But that's a mother. She despised what he had done, and was really hurt by what he had done, but she still loved him."

"You look back and you wish you

had a little more time," Mrs. Roberts explains. "You don't know whether you taught them all that you were supposed to teach.

"I think today that parents don't realize that they have a responsibility that their children need them, that they need some guidance. Too often I see children leading parents: 'I'm not going to do this.' And parents say, 'Well, he says he's not going to do that.'"

"Well then negotiate with the child," Mr. Roberts interjects explaining that as a parent you should not give up just because the child rebels.

"Sally Ann says they would be in bed when the other kids were out playing baseball," Mrs. Roberts recalls. "I don't believe that, but I do believe that there was a time for them to go to bed."

"And also a time for them to come in the house," Mr. Roberts explains. "When the street lights came on you had to come in the house."

As an airman and a member of the prestigious team of pilots we've come to know as the Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Roberts was sometimes away from the family. He explained that although he was gone there was a strong sense of stability within his family. "We all have a book called Streams in the Desert which is a book of daily devotionals which gives us a sense of continuity."

"Wherever we are in the morning," Mrs. Roberts explains, "We are reading our Streams.

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"I think that one's faith keeps one in tact," Mrs. Roberts continues as she recalled a Quaker prayer she taught the children when they were young:

2Ls & 2Ps of God
The light of God surrounds me;
The love of God enfolds me.
The power of God protects me.
The presence of God watches over me.
Wherever I am God is.

"We're not always going to be with them," Mrs. Roberts acknowledges. "The way life is, we've been one place and they have been another. But there are some things that are constant. And God's presence is constant. So no matter what happens, no matter who is there, you are never alone, and God is always there. So, I think children need to have that faith, that sense of protection, that sense of power, that sense of presence that only God can give. And this is what keeps families together." MS

Lucimarian addressing audience in Moss Point.

Self-Development Workshops Scheduled

Dr. Fredric Walls, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, will conduct an Informational Workshop on the Gulf Coast on Saturday morning, April 19 at the Isiah Fredericks Senior Citizen Center in North Gulfport from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Dr. Walls will also conduct an evening workshop at the Star Reading and Learning Center on East Division Street in Biloxi. This workshop will begin at 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Lucimarian Roberts at

452-2770

Glaude Carries Moss Point With Him

by Jeanie Lunsford

Dr. Auwilda Polk, Director of Human Resources and Secondary Operations, Moss Point School District and Dr. Glaude.

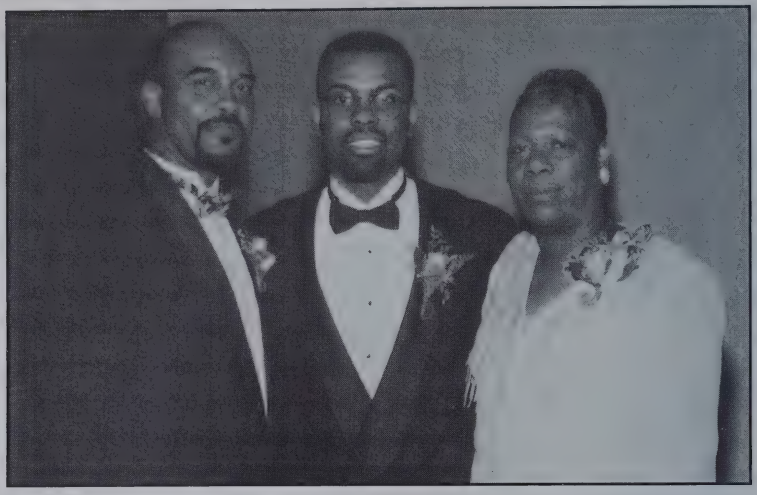
"Wherever I am, I take a little bit of Moss Point with me," said Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., a writer, assistant professor of Religious and African-American Studies at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and one of Moss Point's favorite sons.

A protégé of Cornel West, one of America's pre-eminent black intellectuals, Glaude is that rare creature—a person devoted wholly to the life of the mind. And despite his decision to teach in a predominantly white, Eastern ivy league college, that life was formed by his Southern roots. "It's fundamental to my voice as a writer and as a teacher. It's not just the South, it's Moss Point that speaks."

Glaude actually chose the small, but highly prestigious Bowdoin largely because Brunswick reminded him of the Moss Point he'd known as a child. According to Glaude, Brunswick is a small town with hardly any crime, a place where children sell lemonade and strangers smile and say hello.

He turned down a flattering offer to teach at Brown University because he and his wife Winnifred started a family last year. He was looking for a place to raise their son, Langston Ellis Glaude, that would provide the same small town values he grew up with. Glaude continues to return to Moss Point several times a year to visit his parents, Juanita and Eddie S. Glaude, Sr.

Glaude first left Moss Point when he was offered early admittance to



Dr. Glaude with Parents Eddie Glaude, Sr. and Juanita Glaude

Morehouse College during his senior year at Moss Point High School, a rare honor offered to the likes of Martin Luther King, Jr. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he received a master's degree in African-American studies at Temple University, then a second master's and A Ph.D. in religious studies at Princeton University, where he had a full presidential fellowship.

Glaude credits his early success to role models like Dr. Auwilda Polk, formerly principal of Moss Point High and now the district's director of secondary studies. "Dr. Polk really helped me become secure with myself," says Glaude.

Polk and other Moss Point teachers encouraged him to participate in extracurricular activities at Kreole Elementary and Magnolia Junior High, as well as at Moss Point High School. In fact, it was at Magnolia Junior High that he first got involved in youth government. Eventually, Glaude became the first black youth governor in Mississippi's history.

It was the unsung heroes and heroines he met at school and in the community that inspires Glaude's own teaching. "They provided examples of disciplined behavior," said Glaude. "They would rebuke you in a way that showed they loved you enough to rebuke you. Everyday, they showed that they had faith in my ability to achieve. There were no doubting Thomas' in my life in Moss Point."

According to Glaude, it's up to successful African-American adults to provide an example that will inspire children. "We need to have examples outside of athletes," said Glaude. "Most people don't know we've produced a lot of intellectuals. We need to provide an alternative vision—that the way to succeed is not only through sports."

"You can revel in the life of the mind, which is my favorite thing to do," Glaude said. MS

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Relationships are Central to Learning Success

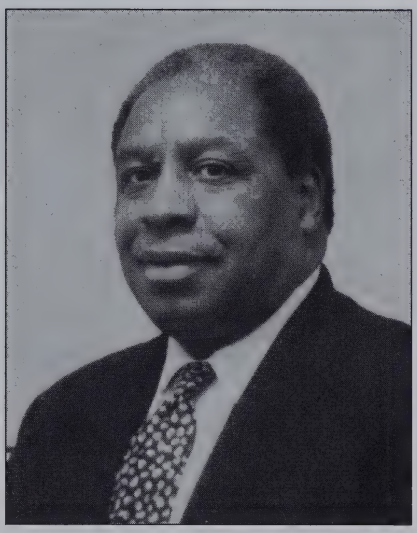
by Jeanie Lunsford

"Relationships are the most important factors in making education effective," said Dr. James H. Easton, superintendent of Moss Point Schools. "That's a thread that runs through all of the innovative things we are currently implementing in Moss Point Schools, as well as many things in which we've traditionally excelled."

"We have a powerhouse football team and renowned math and science teams because the coaches in these areas are experts at building relationships with their students. We want that same kind of success in every classroom," Easton said.

According to Easton, three programs introduced by the district this year - strategic planning, the HOSTS volunteer mentoring program and principle-centered leadership training for staff — have the potential to make Moss Point one of the best districts in the state.

"Strategic planning is the best example of the ways in which you build relationships and better education simultaneously," said Easton. "We have invited every student, parent, teacher, businessperson and community member that wants to contribute ideas about what our schools should be like in the future to join action planning teams. We have five teams based on strategies determined by a cross-representation of our community. Each team will work as a unit to decide what steps must be taken to ensure that every child in Moss Point gets the best possible education."



Superintendent James H. Easton of the Moss Point School District is leading the district's team of educators and the community towards learning success

The HOSTS program, introduced in February in six Moss Point schools, is another example of the power of relationship building, according to Easton. HOSTS stands for Help One Student To Succeed. The district has devoted staff, facilities and funds to make it a success.

"Schools throughout the nation have sat back and wrung their hands over the question: "Why can't Johnny read?" said Easton. "The answer is that as a nation we haven't made it a priority. That won't be the case in Moss Point."

Easton believes that reading skills are the key to success in every field. "How can you think about teaching history, social studies, science, math, let alone language arts, if a child can't read at his or her grade level?" said Easton.

"How can you think about teaching history, social studies, science, math, let alone language arts, if a child can't read at his or her grade level?"

-- JAMES H. EASTON
Superintendent of the Moss Point School District

Moss Point Schools are implementing a variety of proven, research-based reading programs to integrate language skills into every aspect of the school day. Through HOSTS, they will involve a wide base of supporters to ensure that any child who is having trouble succeeding in a traditional classroom environment gets the one-on-one teaching they need to become a skilled reader.

"Some people will tell you they know of a child that taught themselves to read," said Easton. "The reality is those children usually had someone in the home who read to them when they were babies, that helped them build vocabulary talking with them, reading street signs, and generally instilling the love of reading in them. It is the relationship that develops between the child, the adult and learning that lead to future academic success. If a child doesn't get that at home, we'll make sure he gets it at school. But the only way we can provide that one-on-one support is if there are adults who care enough to get involved."

Relationships are also at the heart of the principle-centered leadership training the district is implementing as part of staff training. Ingalls Shipbuilding, which uses this training to build a positive working environment, sponsored courses for more than 70 Moss Point School staff members over the summer and fall. Then Ingalls arranged for nine Moss Point Schools employees to become certified trainers so that every employee in the district could experience it.

"We plan to train everyone - teachers, classroom assistants, bus drivers, administrators, clerical staff, custodians, cafeteria workers," said Easton. "The methodology helps people become self-motivated achievers and outstanding team players."

Easton believes people do a better job when they work with and for people they like and respect - whether they are are adults or children. He feels good relationship and communications skills - the fundamentals of principle-centered leadership - are at the heart of good teaching.

"Moss Point Schools is creating an environment in which children want to learn, where faculty and staff are excited about working cooperatively to encourage learning, and where parents and community members are eager to participate in our schools," said Easton.

MS

CORPORAL ERNEST L. TAYLOR, SR.

Corporal Ernest Taylor of the Bay St. Louis Police Department has spearheaded an effort to have playground equipment installed on the grounds of the city's three Housing Authority residential complexes. The program is called Project S.A.F.E. (Safe Area For Enjoyment).

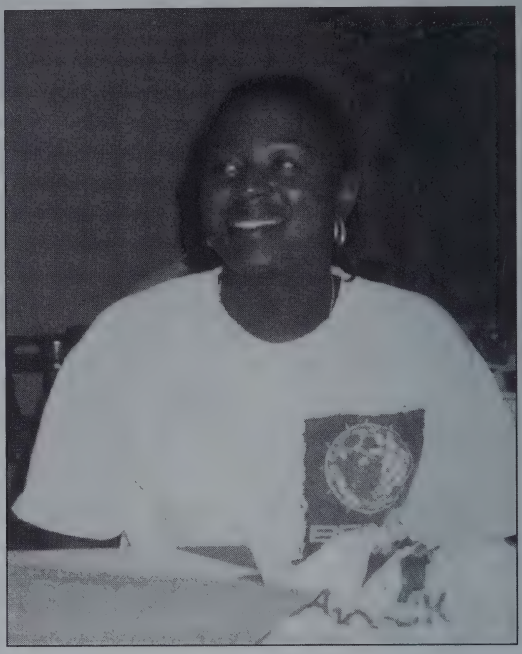
"Every child should have a safe place to play," said Officer Taylor, explaining that the motivation for Project S.A.F.E. came from the assignment. The veteran of the force has been working to decrease criminal activity on the grounds of the complexes which had made the play areas unsafe for children.

Officer Taylor says that to date there has also been some success at eliminating the stigma of the "projects." Each complex has its own name, and the lighting at each site has been increased which has helped to get rid of some of the criminal activity.

"Currently we are trying to raise money for Project S.A.F.E. We've received approximately $2500 and we've located matching funds," Officer Taylor explained. Tenants are involved in a raffle to raise five to six hundred dollars to go toward the first playground which is scheduled to be installed by volunteers this summer.

The playground equipment will be installed at Bay Pine Homes, Magnolia Homes and Bay Oaks. The total cost of the project is approximately $20,000. Officer Taylor has been successful at getting city officials, businesses and members of the community involved in Project S.A.F.E. MS

People



Mary (LaShae) Dorsey

Mary (LaShae) Dorsey is an excellent student with a well-rounded academic focus as a senior at Moss Point High. She has a 3.93 grade point average on a 4.00 scale. Her academic performance has placed her on the Principal's List as well as the Superintendent's List.

This past winter LaShae served on the Strategic Planning Team which is developing plans to recreate education in Moss Point over the next five years. She is also active in band and drama.

LaShae is the daughter of Linda and Jim Dorsey. MS

BAY ALL STARS WIN ST. ROSE DE LIMA ROUNDBALL CLASSIC

The Bay St. Louis All Stars won the 1997 St. Rose de Lima Basketball Tournament held at Valena C. Jones Gymnasium. Twelve men's teams from throughout South Mississippi and Louisiana participated in the double-elimination tournament held over the weekends of March 15-16 and 22-23.

The Bay St. Louis All Stars faced the New Orleans Predators in back-to-back games to determine the champion. Having emerged from the winners bracket, the All Stars encountered a hot-shooting New Orleans Predators team which hit 17 shots from three-point range, forcing a rematch of the same two teams with one loss each.

In the final game, the young legs of the All Stars wore down the Predators as they pushed the ball up court and had their own success behind the three-point line, hitting 14.

The All Stars team was made up of Allison Farve, Russell Fairconnetue, Norvel Shelby, Kythe Smith, Anthony Ealy, Nate Barkum, Elvin Morgan, Carey Martin, Vince Bozeman and Sam Jones.

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Happenings

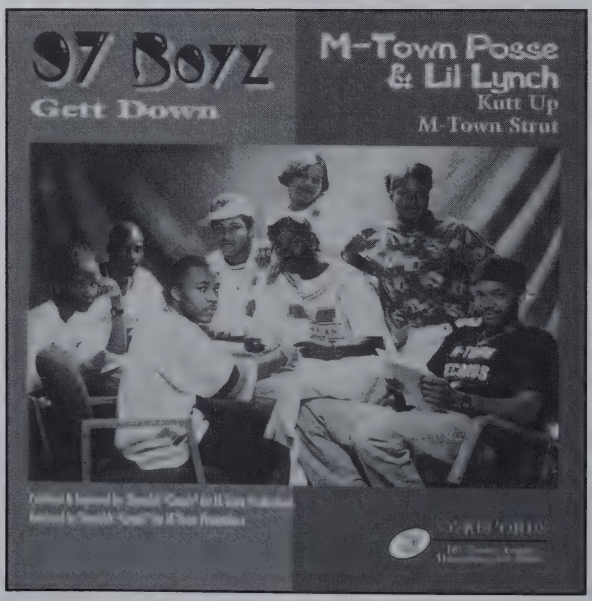
Mary Louise Davis celebrates her 90th birthday at First Baptist Church of Pass Christian as Hattie Johnson joins her after honoring her with a song. She was born on January 9, 1907.

Mrs. Davis celebrated her birthday with members of the congregation, friends, grandchildren and her three daughters - Ethel Jackson of Pass Christian, Doris Bradley of Delisle, and Mary Strong of Toledo, Ohio.

Mary Louise Davis (left) celebrates her 90th birthday party, joined by her friend Hattie Johnson who turned 90 last October 21.

Mrs. Davis served her church as choir president, secretary of finance, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, Bible drill leader and various other positions.

Mrs. Johnson is also 90 years of age. She was born October 21, 1906. She has also been involved in various church activities, including teaching Sunday school, BTU and Mission. "I love church work," she explained. "That's been my life."



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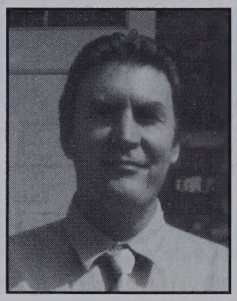
Guest Word

What Makes a House a Home?

by Steve Smith



We all have pondered the question, "What makes a house a home?" at some time or other in our lives, and the answers we come up with may vary. Some will say it is the memories that we keep for a lifetime or the life-shaping events we recall that are associated with the house where we grew up that make a house a home. Others may look outward into the neighborhood to the interactions and rites of passage that both inspired us to further exploration and frightened us enough to make us think of home and safety.

For most of us, the connection between home and safety is fundamental. In fact the two words are practically synonymous. We think of home as a place of refuge, a place where we found shelter and protection and the place where we provide those things for our children. Unfortunately, however some children do not feel safe in their homes and suffer abuse and neglect from parents who are quite simply out of control.

As many news stories dramatically illustrate, children suffer abuse daily in this nation regardless of their social position or economic status. Sometimes months or years of abuse go unnoticed or unreported before the tragic event occurs that shocks us awake momentarily. Too often the price of this momentary reflection is a child's life.

Obviously, this is another of those things that we as a society have yet to actually face - much less work out a solution for. But until we do, children will suffer. In order to promote awareness of the severity of child abuse and begin providing solutions, The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, a non-profit agency based in Gulfport, Mississippi, joins with other child abuse prevention centers across the nation in proclaiming the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons, intended as visual reminders of the suffering of abused children, will adorn public buildings and thousands of blue ribbon lapel pins will be distributed by Center staff and volunteers. Please join us this month to build awareness that will last a lifetime.

Steve Smith is a VISTA employee based in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. For information or to volunteer, please call 601/868-8686.

Ella Jean Holmes-Hines

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APRIL 13
River Extravaganza
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APRIL 19
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APRIL 19
Self-Development Workshop
The Star Reading Learning Center
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APRIL 19
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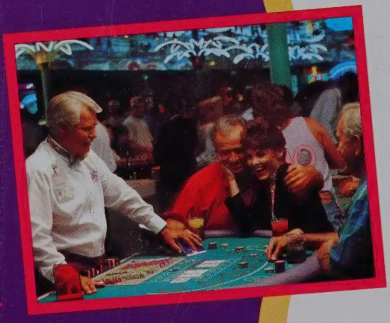

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